

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (previously presented): A light grid for detecting objects in a monitoring region having a transmitter unit comprising a plurality of light transmitters and a receiver unit comprising a plurality of light receivers, respective pairs of light transmitters and light receivers associated with one another and bounding the monitoring region being activated in succession in time in dependence on a synchronization signal transmitted between the transmitter unit and the receiver unit, characterized in that at least one light guide is provided which connects the transmitter unit with the receiver unit for the transmission of the synchronization signal.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A light grid in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the at least one light guide is arranged outside the monitoring region.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A light grid in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the light guide connects the first or last light transmitter of the transmitter unit to the first or last light receiver of the receiver unit respectively.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A light grid in accordance with claim 3, characterized in that the other light transmitter and light receiver pairs are automatically activated in succession at defined time intervals after the transmission and reception of the synchronization signal.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A light grid in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that permitted object sizes and/or movements of an object located in the monitoring region are programmed into or learned by a control unit.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A method for operating a light grid to detect objects in a monitoring region, in which light signals are transmitted from a transmitter unit comprising a plurality of light transmitters to a receiver unit comprising a plurality of light

receivers, with respective pairs of light transmitters and light receivers associated with one another and bounding the monitoring region being activated in succession in time in dependence on a synchronization signal transmitted between the transmitter unit and the receiver unit, characterized in that the synchronization signal is transmitted during operation from the transmitter unit to the receiver unit via changing pairs of light transmitters and light receivers associated with one another.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 6, characterized in that, when the transmission of the synchronization signal between a first pair of light transmitter and light receiver is interrupted or if such an interruption is due, the transmission of the synchronization signal takes place between a second pair of light transmitter and light receiver.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 6, characterized in that a first pair consists of the first or last light transmitter of the transmitter unit and the respective first or last light receiver of the receiver unit; and/or in that a second pair consists of the other last or first light transmitter of the transmitter unit and the other respective last or first light receiver of the receiver unit.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 6, characterized in that a switch or alarm signal is only emitted when a predetermined minimum number of light receivers adjacent one another do not report any reception and an object located in the monitoring region thus exceeds a predetermined minimum size.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 9, characterized in that an object not exceeding the predetermined minimum size is also detected in the monitoring region; and in that a change of the pair of light transmitter and light receiver responsible for the transmission of the synchronization signal takes place in dependence on a position and/or direction of movement of the object.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 6, characterized in that the transmission of the synchronization signal takes place in dependence on

a fixed or determined direction of object entry into the monitoring region via a first or a second pair of light transmitter and light receiver.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A light grid detecting objects in a monitoring region having a transmitter unit comprising a plurality of light transmitters and a receiver unit comprising a plurality of light receivers in which respective pairs of light transmitters and light receivers associated with one another and bounding the monitoring region are activated in succession in time in dependence on a synchronization signal transmitted between the transmitter unit and the receiver unit, characterized in that a control unit is provided for the transmission of the synchronization signal from the transmitter unit to the receiver unit via changing pairs of light transmitters and light receivers associated with one another.

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (new): A method in accordance with claim 6 wherein the synchronization signal is transmitted only once between a light transmitter and an associated light receiver during an operating cycle of the light grid.

Claim 15 (new): A method according to claim 14 including continuing to successively activate the pairs of associated light transmitters and light receivers during the operating cycle after the synchronization signal has been transmitted.

Claim 16 (new): A method in accordance with claim 12 wherein the synchronization signal is transmitted only once between a light transmitter and an associated light receiver during an operating cycle of the light grid.

Claim 17 (new): A method according to claim 16 including continuing to successively activate the pairs of associated light transmitters and light receivers during the operating cycle after the synchronization signal has been transmitted.